

# Women's Societies

## SUGGESTIONS.

By Mrs. C. L. Campbell.

"If two of you shall agree on earth touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

If all the women in the Southern Church should unite even for one minute at twelve o'clock every day in prayer for the work of the Home Mission and Foreign Mission Committees, what a volume of prayer would gladden the Father's heart.

We should all be the more enthused to do this when we know that at that hour in each of these offices every day our busy men and women, weighed down with the responsibility of it all, all engaged in prayer about the work—their work, our work, the Lord's work.

Women of the Southern Church, let's first try this way of keeping down our debts for the year. You remember "you can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."

But we all know that after we have prayed we will do more.

For your devotional hour, give out these references, and have them read from the floor, and as they are read have some one write on the blackboard, "What Christ is to us, and add each characteristic as mentioned.

And close with the question, "What is he to you?"

I am the Vine. John 15:55.  
Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:20.

Behold the Lamb of God. John 1:36.

That was the Light. John 1:9.  
The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14.

He is a Mediator. Heb. 8:6.

The Bread of Life. John 6:35.

The Water of Life. John 4:14.

Our Passover. 1 Cor. 5:7.

A faithful high priest. Heb. 2:17.

King of Kings 1 Tim. 6:15.

This is the Prophet. John 7:40.

Our Redeemer. Isaiah 47:4.

The good Shepherd. John 10:11.

I am the Door. John 10:9.

The Way, the Truth, the Life. John 14:6.

That Rock was Christ. 1 Cor. 10:4.

Christ Jesus, who . . . took upon him the form of a Servant. Phil. 2:5-7.

I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God. John 1:34.

Ye shall see the angels of heaven ascending upon the Son of Man. John 1:51.

Until the day Star arise in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19.

Thou art a Teacher, come from God. John 3:2.

Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness. Rev. 1:5.

you continue in good and regular standing as long as you write at least one such letter a month."

The league was founded by Rev. F. H. Byington, of Massachusetts, or as he would say, given a new impetus by an article which he published, entitled "The League of the Golden Pen." Mr. Byington wrote that "the inspirer of the league was a travelling man, whose business led him into many countries. He took the first step in this direction one day when he was in Greece; but more fully illustrated it, some years later, when in Italy during a period of enforced leisure. Paul, the pioneer of this movement of letter writing 'in the spirit of Christ,' was followed by John, Peter, James and Jude, and many others on down through the centuries.

Isn't this a plan worth trying? Often those denied more active service for the Master will find the Golden Pen very fruitful of good results. Many a message of "cheer, courage, or counsel" may be sent to some one who needs just a word to give him the strength to take up the burden again, or to keep on going.

"For there's never a friend so far from you,

That a message cannot reach;  
And there's never a heart so full of woe,

That a love-word cannot teach.  
And there's never a soul in this sad old world,

Crushed under a weight of care,  
That cannot bend to a loving friend  
Who has paper, and ink—and prayer!"

—A New York User of the Golden Pen.

## THE OLD CLOTHES TEACHERAGE.

It is with great pleasure that we learn of the wonderful progress made by Mrs. Sloop on her school-house and teacherage. Though she has worked under so many difficulties and against so many odds the additions and improvements to the school-house are complete, the playground in good condition and school already open with a good attendance.

The teacherage is well under way and the teachers are "camping out" in it. The bills have all been met so far from the sale of old clothes sent by friends of the cause, but the heaviest bills are yet to come as the work progresses to the finishing touches—the inside woodwork, the papering, etc.

Mrs. Sloop is very much troubled that she has been unable to write letters acknowledging all the barrels and boxes sent. If we could know of all the hundreds of things she is trying to do there—from keeping her own home to superintending the carpenters and arranging for sales—we are sure we would not wish her to add to all this even the small burden of one letter to any of us.

While she is attempting so much there at her home she has not given up her other work of sending boys and girls to school and their bills must be met as usual. Most of the money for this also must come from the sale of old clothes.

Mrs. Sloop writes, "I am depending more and more upon the sales to finance all my work, and for that reason I am begging more earnestly than ever for boxes, and ask you to remember that I am grateful for even the smallest package. And remember that it is never too late to send and that I can sell anything on earth."

Mrs. Sloop sells the things sent her to the people in the surrounding country, who have very little access to stores, and are glad to get usable things from the boxes sent.

On account of railroad conditions at present existing in the mountains of North Carolina freight is very uncertain, so she asks that we send packages by parcel post to Crossnore, N. C., being sure to put the name of the sender on the outside that acknowledgment may be sent.

## VIRGINIA SYNODICAL.

I would call to the remembrance of the women of the Virginia Synodical the Synodical recommendation presented at our spring Presbyterials, relative to the doubling of our gifts to Foreign Missions this year.

When we consider that in 1911-12 the adult societies of the present eight Presbyterials of the Virginia Synodical gave to Foreign Missions \$18,024 and in 1914-15 the offerings to the same cause through the same channels were \$17,470, an actual decrease of \$554, we feel that it is time we awoke to the gravity of the situation and take some decisive action. True, this year we do report an increase of \$1,200 over our gifts of four years ago; but with an accompanying increase of 2,200 members in this period of time, our ratio of giving shows a steady decrease.

Although the demands and opportunities of our foreign work are tripling annually, in the last two years the Foreign Mission Executive Committee has been forced to reluctantly reduce by nearly 30 per cent. their appropriations for local work abroad, because of the inadequate support forthcoming from the home base. What does this policy mean to the Church abroad?

The following extract from a personal letter received by Rev. Warren Stuart, then home on furlough, from Rev. Mercer Blain, of China, just after the first 20 per cent. cut by the Committee on appropriations for local work, graphically sets forth the result:

"When the news of the 20 per cent. cut in our yearly appropriations reached us, we called our evangelistic helpers together for a conference. We told them we did not propose to cut any salaries if it possibly could be helped, but that we would get only 80 per cent. of the money counted on, and that the only way to avoid a cut was for the Chinese Christians to give more liberally. Right there forty-two of the seventy men present resolved to tithe, and all the others promised definite amounts unto the Lord. Since then an Every Member Canvass has been made in all our churches. At Yuhang there are only ten members, but \$60 was promised; at the Labingyao, the thirty members present promised \$116. The preacher led with \$23 for the year. Every one of our evangelistic helpers promise to tithe and the people will follow. The old preachers, Mr. Sen and Mr. Sang, are both tithing, Mr. Sang giving far more than a tithe—\$4.00 a month. We are spending much time in prayer, and it is wonderful to see the spirit in which the people take our suggestions. At first, of course, it comes to them as an impossibility; but the more they prayerfully consider it, the more clearly it becomes possible of accomplishment, if they exercise sufficient faith in God."

We know that the income of the average Chinese is a mere pittance, and that the salaries of evangelistic helpers range from about \$60.00 to \$120.00 per year. Yet these followers of Christ, out of their poverty, are far more liberal in their support of the gospel than we out of our abundance.

Surely these converts are well worth the winning, and must shame into silence those who dared call them "rice Christians."

Can Virginia's women continue in the face of unlimited opportunity and unequalled need in contrast to the example of noble sacrifice set by these humble brethren, to move placidly on in easy paths of Christian service, giving that measure of their means which seems to them creditable and expedient, while actually denying to our Saviour the unwitholding consecration which is our reasonable service? "Love one another as I have loved you," never meant the relinquishment of our stray dimes and occasional dollars for the welfare of humanity. It means the glad yielding of our all for the salvation of our fellow-men, for the dear sake of him who freely gave his life for us.

Surely the Virginia Synodical could in no way more fittingly express her praise and gratitude to God for blessings so lavishly bestowed upon our land and nation, our loved ones and ourselves, than by this year dedicating \$50,000 to his glory among the nations that know him not.

Even this amount, while more than double our last year's offerings to Foreign Missions, is paltry indeed as compared to the cost of our self-indulgences.

O, dear women! let us give joyfully, delighting to honor the Lord with our substance, strong in the power of his might.

The leaders of our organized work cannot attain the standard set before you. They can only pray, trust and work individually. It remains with you, the nine thousand women of our local societies of Virginia, to enable us to greet April, 1917, with victorious thanksgiving. Not the wealth of our members shall determine the outcome but the use of those heavenly resources at every member's command—prayer and sacrifice. So few have as yet conceived the miraculous power of these resources, or experienced their reflex blessings.

Let each woman, be she harassed by the multitudinous demands of city life or hampered by the limitations of country environments, determine by her own unceasing prayers and sacrificial gifts to aid in this undertaking to advance the kingdom of the Master she serves. Shall we not, like Israel of old, obey our Lord's command to bring to his altar our first fruits, trusting him to reward our sacrifice?

"I have brought to thee, down from my home above,  
Salvation full and free—my pardon  
and my love;  
I bring rich gifts to thee, what hast thou brought to me?"

Earnestly yours,

Caroline R. Walton,

President of Virginia Synodical.

## MISSIONS IN OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

(Extract from an address before Tygart's Valley Presbyterial by Mrs. E. H. Arnold.)

Let us urge our pastors and superintendents that we be in the vanguard, and not always lagging in the rear, as to the wishes and suggestions of our Church, therefore that we take up at once the question of having missions taught in our Sunday-school. "This plan has three parts: study, prayer and giving. All three to be effective must be definite, and the objects must be sufficiently varied to avoid wearisome repetitions."

From Christian Observer we give this explanation:

The plan for educating the Sunday-schools in Foreign Mission work, being carried on by our Southern Presbyterian Church in seven different coun-

## PAPER AND INK—AND PRAYER."

By Helen Argyle.

Write a letter  
At least once a month,  
In the spirit of Christ,  
To stranger, friend or kin,  
To give cheer, courage or counsel."

The above is the passport to a very unique organization—The League of the Golden Pen. This league has no officers, no constitution, no committees, no dues, in fact, nothing but members. "You initiate yourself into membership," writes the founder of the league, "when you write your first letter with the Golden Pen, and